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Axel Kohnke

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EXAMINER

LAI, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/556,225	Applicant(s) KOHNKE, AXEL	
	Examiner MICHAEL C. LAI	Art Unit 2457	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-11,13,15,16,18 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-11,13,15,16,18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to communication filed on 6/8/2009.

Response to Amendment

2. The examiner has acknowledged the amended claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, cancelled claims 14, 20. The objections to the abstract and claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19 have been corrected and withdrawn accordingly. The 112 second paragraph rejections to claims 18 and 19 have been corrected and withdrawn accordingly. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 18 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities:
"configure" should be "configured" in lines 8, 13 of claim 18, and line 5 of claim 19. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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6. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 13, 15-16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Beer (2003/0165227, hereinafter De Beer), and in view of Macaluso (US 2005/0079863 A1, hereinafter Macaluso).

Regarding claim 1, De Beer discloses a method comprising:

coding a request comprising one or more telephone numbers [para. 52, step 43, generates a request message in the SMS format];

transmitting said request to a network serving entity for performing said network information retrieval [para. 53, step 45];

receiving a response from said network serving entity, said response comprising network information associated with said one or more telephone numbers [para. 0054, updating information and service provider; para. 0055, step 47; para. 0056, “the routing data may comprise a prefix code to be added to the input telephone number stored in the buffer memory 90 by the processor 30”];

decoding said response to extract said network information [para. 0055, lines 1-6]; and

storing said network information in conjunction with said one or more telephone numbers [para. 0055, step 48].

De Beer discloses a response containing information related to the telephone numbers except that there are no identifications of network operators providing services to the telephone numbers. Macaluso discloses techniques in response to a request for mobile service subscription options received from a mobile device, data relating to mobile service subscription options, for selection by a

user of the mobile device, may be sent to the mobile device over a wireless communication path [see abstract]. Macaluso further discloses the mobile device may be capable of operation with a number of service providers, and the data relating to mobile subscription options may identify a number of available service providers. The selection of one or more subscription options may be an identification of a selected service provider [see para. 0006, 0007]. Thus Macaluso meets the limitation of “receiving a response from said network serving entity, said response comprising network information identifying one or more network operators providing services to said one or more telephone numbers”. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Macaluso’s teaching into De Beer’s method in order to achieve the goal of selecting a service provider at the time of or after purchase of the mobile device [see para. 0005].

Regarding claim 2, De Beer and Macaluso further discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein the response is structured into at least one information record, said information record includes one telephone number of said one or more telephone numbers and a network operator providing services to said one telephone number [De Beer, FIG. 6 and para. 0054; Macaluso, para. 0006, 0007]. See motivation in claim 1.

Regarding claim 3, De Beer further discloses a method according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting said one or more telephone numbers from a plurality of telephone numbers stored in a telephone directory of a communication terminal [para. 0123, phonebook].

Regarding claim 4, De Beer further discloses a method according to claim 3, wherein said selecting is performed manually by a user of said communication terminal [para. 0052].

Regarding claim 6, De Beer further discloses a method according to claim 2, wherein storing said network information comprises:

identifying at least one telephone directory entry in a telephone directory of a communication terminal on the basis of said one telephone number that is included in said information record [para. 0057];

storing said network information by including said network information into said at least one identified telephone directory entry [para. 0055, step 48].

Regarding claim 8, De Beer further discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein said network information further comprises charging information [para. 0004, updating information and charging rate].

Regarding claim 9, De Beer discloses a method comprising:

receiving a request from a communication terminal, wherein said request comprises one or more telephone numbers [para. 0054, note that “the control center responds by sending a response message to the mobile” implies that it has received a request from the mobile.];

decoding said request to extract said one or more telephone numbers
[para. 0053, note that the mobile sending the request message in SMS format to the control center implies the message must be decoded by the control center];
coding a response which comprises said retrieved network information
[para. 0055, note that decoding the response message from the control center implies coding the response message by the control center]; and
transmitting said response to said communication terminal [para. 0054, step 46].

De Beer discloses the claimed invention except for retrieving network information identifying one or more network operators providing services to said one or more telephone numbers. Macaluso discloses techniques in response to a request for mobile service subscription options received from a mobile device, data relating to mobile service subscription options, for selection by a user of the mobile device, may be sent to the mobile device over a wireless communication path [see abstract]. Macaluso further discloses the mobile device may be capable of operation with a number of service providers, and the data relating to mobile subscription options may identify a number of available service providers. The selection of one or more subscription options may be an identification of a selected service provider [see para. 0006, 0007]. Thus Macaluso meets the limitation of “retrieving network information identifying one or more network operators providing services to said one or more telephone numbers”. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to incorporate Macaluso's teaching into De Beer's method in order to achieve the goal of selecting a service provider at the time of or after purchase of the mobile device [see para. 0005].

Regarding claim 10, De Beer and Macaluso further discloses a method according to claim 9, wherein retrieving network information comprises accessing a data storage which stores network information identifying one or more network operators providing services to a plurality of telephone numbers [De Beer, FIG. 2 and para. 0038, the control center 7 and the database 10; Macaluso, para. 0006, 0007]. See motivation in claim 9.

Regarding claim 11, De Beer and Macaluso further discloses a method according to claim 9, wherein said response is structured into at least one information record including one telephone number of said one or more telephone numbers and a network operator providing services to said one telephone number [De Beer, para. 0055, note that decoding the response message from the control center implies coding the response message by the control center; Macaluso, para. 0006, 0007]. See motivation in claim 9.

Regarding claim 13, De Beer further discloses a method according to claim 9, wherein said network information further comprises charging information [para. 0004, updating information and charging rate].

Claims 15 and 18 are of the same scope as claim 1. They are rejected for the same reason as for claim 1.

Claims 16 and 19 are of the same scope as claim 9. They are rejected for the same reason as for claim 9.

7. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Beer and Macaluso as applied to claim 3, and further in view of Tomiyori (US 5,305,372, hereinafter Tomiyori).

Regarding claim 5, De Beer and Macaluso disclose a method according to claim 3, but silent about wherein said selecting is performed automatically in accordance with a pre-defined selection definition. However, Tomiyori teaches a speed dialing memory storing a plurality of destination address numbers corresponding to user-defined speed dialing codes [col. 1, lines 44-50 and col. 2, lines 61-68]. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Tomiyori's teaching into De Beer's and Macaluso's method for the purpose of speed dialing by a pre-defined selection definition, thereby providing a more user friendly service.

Conclusion

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially

teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL C. LAI whose telephone number is (571)270-3236. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service

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Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael C. Lai
08OCT2009

/YVES DALENCOURT/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2457